Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/ARA:T.FORTUNE:L:M.B.FELDMAN:JV APPROVED BY L:H.J.HANSELL ARA/PAN - R. WYROUGH

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: DRAFT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION; SPECIAL IMMIGRATION PROVISION

REFS: (A) PANAMA 1826; (B) JORDEN-HANSELL TELECON, 3/21

FOR AMBASSADOR JORDEN FROM HANSELL

1. IN LINE WITH OUR CONVERSATION I AM SENDING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL STATUTORY PROVISION ON SPECIAL IMMIGRATION. AS DISCUSSED, WE AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTION IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CONVERSATION, PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW IS A PROPOSED STATUTORY PROVISION REFLECTING YOUR SUGGESTION AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, THAT WE HOPE WOULD ENABLE US TO SETTLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS MATTER BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK.

2. THE IMMIGRATION STATUTE THAT WE ARE AMENDING PROVIDES (IN SECTION 1101(A)(27) OF TITLE 8, U.S. CODE) SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF "SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS" WHO ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS AND THE LABOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT. THE LATEST DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED

LEGISLATION, WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN, WOULD ADD A NEW CATEGORY OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS CONSISTING OF CANAL ZONE RESIDENTS

EMPLOYED BY THE CANAL ZONE OR THE CZG FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE WHO ARE INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED. THE TEXT SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW WOULD ADD A FURTHER CATEGORY.

- 3. PROPOSED NEW SECTION 1101(A)(27)(F): "AN IMMIGRANT, AND HIS ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, WHO IS A PANAMANIAN NATIONAL AND (I) WHO PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY HAS BEEN HONORABLY RETIRED FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT IN THE CANAL ZONE (OR FORMER CANAL ZONE) WITH A TOTAL OF FIFTEEN YEARS, OR MORE, OF FAITHFUL SERVICE OR (II) WHO IS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THE CANAL ZONE (OR FORMER CANAL ZONE) AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY OF 1977 AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS, OR MORE, OF FAITHFUL SERVICE, AND WHO HAS NOT BEEN OFFERED EMPLOYMENT BY THE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS ASSUMED OPERATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIVITY IN WHICH HE WAS EMPLOYED." END OF TEXT.
- 4. NOTHING IN THE LEGISLATION WE ARE PROPOSING WOULD EXEMPT THE SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS FROM THE GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION OF UNDESIRABLE ALIENS STIPULATED IN SECTION 1182(A) OF TITLE 8, SUCH AS PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL AT YOUR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AS WE ARE COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE LEGISLATION TO THE HILL BY THE END OF THE WEEK. VANCE

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